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Community Development Program for Caracol - EKAM Housing Project

Quarterly Report





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Community Development Program for Caracol – EKAM Housing Projects

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAEPA	Comité d'Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et Assainissement
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDP	Community Development Program
CIP	Caracol Industrial Park
CIAT	Comité Interministériel d'Aménagement du Territoire
CMC	Community Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTB	Community Time Bank
DINEPA	Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement
ECAP	Emergency Capacity Assistance Program
EDH	Électricité d'Haïti
EPPLS	Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux
FAES	Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale
GOH	Government of Haiti
HFA	Host Family Assistance
HTG	Haitian Gourdes
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
JMRF	Joint Maintenance and Repair Fund
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
PACE	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
PMT	Program Management team
SMS	Short Message Service
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	US Government

Executive Summary

Global Communities was awarded the Community Development Program (CDP) for Caracol, also known as the EKAM Housing Project, on August 7, 2013. This report covers the activities and achievements under CDP in the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2015 (January 1 to March 30 2015).

Qualitative Summary

The USAID-funded Community Development Project (CDP) aimed to develop a sustainable social housing village where residents, stakeholders and partners have an equal sense of ownership. Previously, the program concentrated on the management of the social housing village daily life; residents attended WASH trainings to improve hygiene and sanitation, elected the Community Management Committee to oversee housing activities and developed land-use plans that would drive business and economic development in the village and surrounding areas. This quarter, CDP focused on resident capacity building and livelihood improvement.

The CMC, with the help of community mobilizers, facilitators and block captains, facilitated greater communication between the residents and the administration. The administration used this greater transparency and interaction to encourage residents to pay their bills and start their own initiatives. In addition to supporting the CDP housing project, Global Communities continued to aid the EPPLS, the village management team. This support took various forms, including motivating the residents to pay their bills, improving security, evicting residents and monitoring/evaluating the program.

Constraints and Opportunities

Global Communities and EPPLS continued to deal with issues that arose following the floods in November and December 2014. USAID sent a team of experts to assess the damage and determine an appropriate course of action. Although a final sustainable remediation plan had yet to be finalized, several shorter-term solutions were already underway.

A positive outcome from the floods was the organization of a community-based committee that was comprised of important local actors to discuss solutions and preventative measures for natural disasters. The committee catalyzed several plans and plan to continue meeting to discuss issues within the region.

Subsequent Quarter's Work Plan

In the subsequent quarter the CDP program intends to offer multiple trainings respectively for women, residents, the EPPLS and CMC. Dependent on the target group, these trainings will offer technical, management or livelihood skills to build the capacity of the social housing village at all levels. The key activities planned for next quarter include:

- Support the CMC activities
- Host PACE trainings
- Solve sewage and technical problems
- Offer women technical trainings
- Train residents on social integration
- Foster public and private partnership
- Improve livelihood opportunities
- Continue trainings for EPPLS team and the CMC team.

Beneficiary Training, Selection and Move-In

The move-in process for the beneficiaries ended in February 2014. The 63 houses reserved for the students of the King Christophe's University have been occupied since November 2014. CDP outfitted the houses with gas stoves, thus the students and other beneficiaries attended a training on the use of those stoves.

Governance and Community Relations

Bill Payments

The community mobilizers continued sensitizing the residents to the concept of paid services. This process aimed to avoid eviction and disconnection of water/electricity services by emphasizing the importance of timely rent, water and electricity payments. Additionally, the program highlighted the services available when residents paid their bills; these included waste removal, security and public space maintenance.

CDP addressed high rate of unpaid water bills in the previous quarter, in consultation with CAEPA, in a two- campaign. Firstly, CDP involved the block captains in payment collection. The block captains collected the water payments for the residents on their platforms. As an incentive, the block captains received 10% of the payments they successfully collected. Secondly, a poster campaign began which listed all of the residents who had not paid their water bill. A meeting with them were organized to explain them again, the use of the water payment. Finally, those residents who did not pay the bill after the first two steps received an eviction notice on their doors.

As a result of the campaign, most of the residents paid at least one out of three months of bills. This was the minimum requirement to avoid eviction. In January 26% of residents paid their water bills on time and in-full, February 45%, and March only 20%. In summary, this quarter 29% of residents paid their water bills on time and in full.

The rent payments remained stable.

Community Meetings

One meeting between the block captains and facilitators took place to inform them about the upcoming community activities, involve them in water payments and sensitize them to the cleaning campaign during carnival. The block captains also only met once with the CMC; however, the block captains met once a week with representatives of the five women's organizations to exchange idea, identify problems/solutions and develop income generating activities.

Since January, the platform committees and interested residents attended two-hour trainings twice a week by a mobilizer. One individual from each household was required to attend the workshops; however, these mandatory trainings were conveniently held at the platforms. The sessions focused on social integration and the vision for the village after the departure of Global Communities. The mobilizer emphasized the importance of organizing and identifying their resources and strengths to independently manage the village. The workshop also allowed the participants to discuss, share their point of view, and learn about each other.

Community Management Committee (CMC) Meetings

At the beginning of the year, CMC, CDP and EPPLS members reflected on the previous quarter, focusing on the achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The evaluation of the program prompted the activities for this quarter, which included:

- Select market place beneficiaries
- Decide on Carnival activities

- Learn how to use the sound system
- Finalize legal status of the CMC
- Monitor the flood solutions
- Plan elections

Operational Support for the EPPLS Site Team

Conflicts and Issues

Four conflicts occurred this quarter: competition between neighbor stores, lack of cooperation between block captain and resident and two rape attempts. Thankfully, mobilizers quickly resolved the issues.

EPPLS Trainings

Global Communities supported and collaborated with EPPLS from the beginning of the program. EPPLS communicated with CMC members, mobilized teams for rent and bill collection, supported initiatives and participated in every meeting, event and decision-making process. Global Communities and EPPLS also jointly updated the data concerning the number of occupied houses, payment status, and percentage of on-time payments.

Two USAID-hired consultants assessed the potential of bringing investors into the village and supporting the PPP officer. The consultants met with key actors and distributed surveys to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities in the region. They will present their findings and host a workshop in the following quarter.

Site Management and Services

Grants for Services and Infrastructure

Services and infrastructure received no specific grant this quarter; however, CDP continued to support activities implemented by the commissions and CMC.

Rent Payment and Eviction

The mobilizers, block captains and facilitators collected rent and the rate of payment reached 39.58 % for January, 23% for February and 18% for March. The low rates for February and March occurred due to Carnival, when families spent their earnings on travel, food and other holiday expenses. No eviction notices were issued.

Water and Sanitation Related Services

The CAEPA team treated water with chlorine and began the process to buy a chlorine pump to continue water quality improvements. The team also built a security system around the water pipes and tanks to prevent residents from accessing the water and filling their tanks at any time.

Public Spaces

This quarter, many steps were taken to improve the quality of public spaces within the housing development. First, two residents cleaned the public spaces and collected the trash daily. Second, CDP renegotiated a contract with Golsa, the waste removal company, to improve services. Third, at the beginning of January NAME signed a contract to cut the grass in the public areas. Finally, CMC ordered a fumigation campaign to eradicate the proliferating mosquitoes. These efforts improved the hygiene, cleanliness and image of the village for both the residents and visitors.

The housing platforms are not considered as public space, but the private property of the residents. Therefore each platform can be managed differently, but must maintain a certain level of cleanliness. Occasionally, a cleaning campaign is introduced; for example, before Carnival, each platform participated in a competition to be the most beautiful and clean platform. Additionally, residents from block 1, 2, 3, and 5 participated in PHAST trainings, which detailed best cleaning and hygiene practices. Following the trainings, the participants sensitized other residents in their blocks on the importance of hygiene and sanitation to reduce diarrheal diseases and improve quality of life.

Septic Tank Maintenance

Seven platforms emptied their septic tanks this quarter; however, this is a major challenge during the rainy season. The septic tanks fill quickly with rain rather than sewage, and need to be emptied promptly to avoid flooding.

Village Events

The six commissions participated in the organization and implementation of Carnival and International Women's Day events. During the two days of Carnival, students from the S&H School participated in activities and residents were pleased with the event. The security commission ensured that no incidents occurred and the health commission provided services throughout the two days.

Women from organizations in the surrounding area and the housing development participated in a successful International Women's Day. Women hosted workshops and lectures, and participants reported that the sessions were informative and interesting. Additionally, five organizations from the Village la Différence made hand-made products (hats, handbags, jam, cassava, mamba (Haitian peanut butter), etc. and sold their goods to attendees. These profits will fund future the organization's future activities.

On March 26th the S&H School marked its first anniversary and hosted a celebration. Students, parents, teachers, director of SEA, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, Global Communities and EPPLS attended the event and viewed a student exposition.

Social and Economic Capacity Building

Livelihood

A Public-Private Partnership officer joined the team this quarter to help residents find jobs and identify investors to develop vacant lots.

Women Associations Activities

The Caracol municipality legally registered the five women's organizations. These organizations held weekly meetings to identify problems facing the women in the village, such as the lack of livelihood opportunities and poor living conditions. The organization empowered these women by collaborating to find solutions to these issues.

In light of those issues, the organizations hosted the International Women's Day event, which offered workshops, conferences and performances in addition to exhibiting and selling women's hand-made products. The four day hosted more than a thousand people and exceeded all expectations. The women have debriefed and identified the strengths and weaknesses of the event planning and implementation, which will aid them as they begin planning activities for Labor Day.

Farm Trainings for Women

The community garden flourished this quarter and the women harvested high quality crops. The agronomist did not provide trainings due to the harvest; but was available in the field every day to answer questions or concerns.

PHAST Trainings

Residents must attend a five week training to receive a certificate and be authorized to clean their platforms. The sessions covered overall problem solving skills, such as problem identification, analysis and solutions. The trainings also identified the steps to build infrastructure, initiate behavior change and monitor/evaluate those processes. The objective of the training was to improve the hygiene practices, prevent the diarrheal disease, and encourage community management of the water and sanitation facilities. Residents of block three completed the training this quarter and platform three will begin in the following quarter.

Fire Extinguisher Trainings

Last quarter, Global Communities provided a fire extinguisher for each platform and office. This quarter, a mobilizer trained at least three representatives from each platform on how to use the fire extinguisher. The training included the parts of an extinguisher, types of fires and how to use an extinguisher. The mobilizer demonstrated putting out a fire and allowed residents to practice holding the extinguisher properly. Only three more platforms need to be trained in the next quarter.

English and Spanish Classes for Adults

Every Sunday afternoon, four teachers at S&E School offered 60 adults English and Spanish classes. The aim was to provide residents with the opportunity to continue learning. The students' progress will be evaluated during the following quarter by comparing a baseline and final exam.

Challenges

Global Communities and EPLLS continued to deal with issues that arose following the floods in November and December 2014. USAID sent a team of experts to assess the damage and determine an appropriate course of action. Although a final sustainable remediation plan had yet to be finalized, several shorter-term solutions were already underway.

A committee comprised of important local actors, including religious leaders, mayors from the surrounding municipalities, representatives of the Agritrans banana plantation, and directors of the University of Limonade and S&H School, met to discuss solutions and preventative measures. Agritrans agreed to dig the canals in front of the CDP village to prevent future flooding. These meetings will continue in the following quarter to address ongoing and new issues.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

- Support the CMC activities
- Host PACE trainings
- Solve sewage and technical problems
- Offer women technical trainings
- Train residents on social integration
- Foster public and private partnership
- Improve livelihood opportunities
- Continue trainings for EPLLS team and the CMC

ANNEX: Pictures



Carnival



International Women's Day celebrations



Fire extinguisher trainings



First anniversary of the opening of S & H School



The introduction of the new EPPLS regional director